

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAMA KO 01034 171815Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /077 W

-----180715Z 086464 /17

R 171749Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5942

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 1034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, ML, DM, MO, GV

SUBJECT: OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING LOME: BENIN

REF: (A) BAMA KO 0698, (B) RABAT 1050

1. AMBASSADOR DRAMANE OUATTARA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF OAU DELEGATION TO UNITED NATIONS, AGAIN PASSED THROUGH BAMA KO, THIS TIME ENROUTE FROM LOME CONFERENCE TO NEW YORK.

2. IN SHORT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR AF/W ROBERT HOUDEK AT RESIDENCE EVENING MARCH 14, OUATTARA SAID HE THOUGHT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HAD GONE OFF FAIRLY WELL. THEY HAD, HOWEVER, NEARLY GOTTEN BOGGED DOWN ON BENIN ISSUE.

3. REFERRING TO MOROCCO'S SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPATION IN OAU ACTIVITIES ON GROUNDS OF PREMATURE DISTRIBUTION  
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OF BENIN REPORT TO ASSEMBLAGE AND PRESENCE OF POLISARIO AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, OUATTARA COMMENTED HE CONSIDERED THAT MOROCCO HAD A POINT ON BOTH COUNTS. REPORT WAS DIRECTED NOT TO CONFERENCE BUT TO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HIS DECISION ON SUBSEQUENT ACTION; AND MEETING HAD BEEN CONVENED BY OAU, NOT TOGO, AND THEREFORE TOGO SHOULD NOT HAVE INVITED

POLISARIO.

4. OUATTARA WENT ON TO SAY HE THOUGHT BENIN AFFAIR  
"SMELLED FISHY" AND GAVE HIM IMPRESSION OF "TRUMPED-UP  
CHARGE". GUINEAN WHO TESTIFIED AS SUPPOSED MERCENARY  
HAD CLEARLY BEEN CAREFULLY INSTRUCTED, AND HE FINISHED  
HIS RECITATION BY ROTE WITH WORDS "READY FOR THE  
REVOLUTION", WELL-KNOWN TRADEMARK OF SEKOU TOURE REGIME.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009